APPENDIX

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COLLOQUIUM ON THE CARE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTION OF MANUSCRIPTS AND RARE BOOKS
Vatican City (Library), Rome
October 21-24, 1975

As part of the celebration of the fifth centenary of its founding, the Apostolic Vatican Library was host from October 21-24 to representatives of 24 major libraries located in 15 countries of Western Europe and the United States in a colloquium organized by the Vatican Library to discuss the care and photographic reproduction of manuscripts and rare books. John Finzi, Reference Department, and Charles G. LaHood, Jr., Photoduplication Service, represented the Library of Congress at the proceedings. The colloquium was held in the recently restored Sixtus IV Library with two sessions each day. Formal papers were presented at each session, followed by discussion of the selected topic.

Following a presentation at the first session by Luciana Mancusi, Director of the National Central Library in Rome, on administrative, juridical, and financial problems in Italian libraries, Mr. LaHood presented a paper entitled, "Photographic Services in Libraries and Archives, Financial and Administrative Consideration." Mr. LaHood discussed the vexing problem of free library service in relation to photocopying charges and concluded that some standardization in the approach to a fee structure would be desirable in order to distribute demand on library collections. The problem of fees is particularly acute between government supported and privately funded libraries and archives. Mr. LaHood expressed the hope that libraries were not levying excessive use fees in the hope of diverting demand to other collections. The problem could become most acute at the international level.

At the next session on October 21 Tilo Brandis, Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, discussed in-house photographic records, i.e., security records. He reported that of the 14 libraries which responded to the Vatican questionnaire which had been sent out preliminary to the organization of the colloquium, only six libraries stated that they were maintaining security records. Security film should be of the highest photographic quality; the entire material, including the binding, should be photographed for the security records. Security files are recommended and should be stored off-site in a safe location and should only be used in the event that the original is lost. Because of the great expense involved in this approach, and the concern about future technical developments and the consequent high cost of maintaining technical currency, security records for the bulk of manuscripts and other unique materials should consist of microfilm.

Karl Dachs of the Bavarian State Library reported on in-house photographic records used by photographic services. The questionnaire revealed that there was wide consensus on the principle of establishing photographic service archives to protect the originals against deterioration brought about by frequent handling of the originals in the photographic laboratory. Most of the reporting libraries maintained collections of photographic master copies ready for reproduction. It was indicated that some of the libraries do not have their own photographic workshops, but rather entrusted the work to commercial firms located either within the confines of the library or in proximity to the library. Although such in-house service records may differ from library to library, depending on the type of their holdings, there is a unanimity of the principle as to what would be included in the photographic service archives: first consideration usually being accorded to unique material, followed by those items for which only a few copies are known to exist. Photographic techniques vary depending on the size of production capacities of the photographic workshop in the library. The black and white negatives and negative glass plates, now sheet film in various sizes, as well as the negative microfilm are considered standard. Color transparencies used for photoreproduction and slides for use of individual researchers and for projections in lectures are now fairly common; however, color photographs from which paper copies are made have not gained acceptance by the libraries. The libraries reported use of ultraviolet, infrared, and betaradiography as being exceptional.

K. B. Gardner of the British Library reported that the practice of the British Library with regard to the supplying of photocopies in the best tradition of the British Museum is extremely liberal. It is possible for

the public to order photographs of manuscripts and/or books without the order being scrutinized or refused on the grounds that the purpose is "not scientific." There are controls, however, to prevent irresponsible ordering, particularly of new photographs. Applicants who make very general requests can be satisfied by a suggestion that suitable substitutes be utilized. The British Library's photographic service has general regulations which are published as part of the current price list. Use of the order blank is recommended but is not compulsory; this practice is in agreement with the other reporting libraries with the exception of the Bibliothèque Royale at Brussels which insists on an applicant returning three correct, complete, and legible copies of the order form. Some libraries reserve the right to refuse to copy, if the request is considered "nonscientific."

Rudolf Fiedler of the Oesterreichischen Nationalbibliothek at Vienna reviewed particular rules for granting permission to produce photographic reproductions for publication, followed by Manuel Carrion of the Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, who discussed the need for internal photographic documentation.

Marcel Thomas of the Bibliothèque Nationale reported, on the basis of a separate questionnaire, the wide variance in lending practices, and that three of the reporting libraries in fact do not lend at all. Some libraries reported that it was their position that photography replaces interlibrary loan. Tamara Pavlovna Voronova of the Publicnaja Biblioteka, Leningrad, reported on problems of photocopying material in her library, particularly the early manuscripts.

The final session on October 24 was devoted to the adoption of some 15 resolutions. The resolutions relate to the necessity of libraries to promote the exchange of information concerning techniques of photographic reproductions which would better permit the handling of precious documents; that libraries improve the methods for reproducing precious documents; that librarians conscientiously make judgments in each case regarding the effects which permission to copy might have on a precious document; that repeated photocopying of the original document be minimized as much as possible; that whenever possible a document be copied in its entirety to avoid future copying of portions or segments; and that libraries remain the holders and custodians of the original master copies. These and other resolutions relating to interlibrary loan will be included in the "Acts of the Colloquium" which the Prefect and organizer of the conference, Don Alfonso M. Stickler, S.D.B., indicated would be published as soon as feasible.

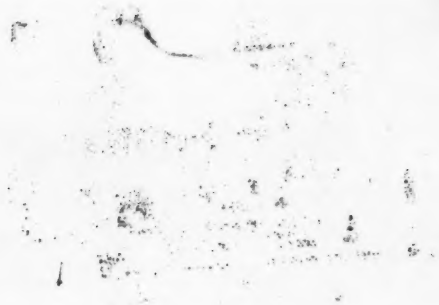
The presentation of the various papers and the intense general discussions which accompanied each one of them as well as the formulation of the final resolutions provided a unique opportunity for a serious review and exchange of ideas concerning some fundamental problems that face all libraries and depositories that own rare manuscripts and books. Basically, these problems can be reduced to the contradiction existing between the obligation to serve readers and researchers and the preservation mission of libraries, a contradiction which is further exacerbated by the increased use and demand for photographic reproduction by individual scholars as well as by publishers of facsimile texts. How to ensure the safety of the original materials while making them available in photocopy for both private and commercial use was in essence the theme of the whole conference. First and foremost was the question of when and under what circumstances should permission be given by the repository for the photocopying of a rare item. Connected with this was the question of what charges to levy for this work. Much discussion also was devoted to an exchange of ideas as to how to minimize damage to the original, either through advanced photocopying technologies or to make it mandatory that an item be copied in its entirety only once to avoid repeated filming, or both. In this connection, however, it was noted that the impermanence of color film and the constantly improving sensitivity of black and white film tend to militate, in many cases, against this once-for-all filming: what may have been satisfactory 20 years ago would no longer, in fact, respond to the much higher standards of today, especially for commercial reproduction. As mentioned before, the building up by libraries of "security archives," that is, of archives of master copies, both negative and master transparencies, to be maintained as an insurance against any possible damage occurring to the originals and never to be used for further reproduction, was amply and repeatedly discussed. It was recognized, however, that while it would be desirable to build these archives systematically for all rare materials, financial realities make this impossible and that the creation of these archives must necessarily rely on both systematic effort and the haphazard accretion contributed by users' demands.

The preoccupations and problems reviewed and discussed at this meeting in Rome are fully reflected among American libraries, as evidenced by the state-

Dr. Mancusi, Mr. Finzi, and Mr. LaHood

ments recently prepared on some of these points by the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of College and Research Libraries, and it was most rewarding to see reflected at the conference the European point of view and to witness a major attempt toward finding answers and to reach a common position on this complex issue. While a great variety of points of view was expressed by the participants on the various aspects discussed, and while many of the details concerning practices, regulations, and means to achieve the goal of preserving the original materials varied from library to library, it became evident that a vast area of unanimous agreement also existed. This basic consensus made possible at the conclusion of the conference the drafting and adoption of the resolutions mentioned earlier. It was finally resolved that the text of these resolutions be forwarded to the directors of the participating libraries for review and possibly approval, and subsequently circulated as widely as possible and communicated as a platform for action to such international bodies as IFLA and UNESCO.

The Vatican Library should be highly commended for taking the initiative in organizing this conference, for the flawless execution of the plan, and the implementation of the agenda. A warm vote of thanks is due to the organizer of the conference, Don Alfonso Stickler, S.D.B.

To emphasize the importance of the colloquium, Pope Paul VI met with the conferees and their spouses in the Papal apartment on October 23. The texts of Pope Paul's talk and that of the Librarian and Archivist of the Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Antonio Samoré, were published in full in the October 24 issue of *L'Osservatore Romano.*

[*John Charles Finzi* and *Charles G. LaHood, Jr.*]